

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Fort Necessity National Battlefield

Historic name

Fort Necessity

2. Location

(Wharton township)

street & number Route 40, RD 2 not for publication N/A
city or town Farmington vicinity N/A
state Pennsylvania code PA county Fayette code 051
zip code 15437

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____
See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register _____

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
 of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
Public-Federal

Category of Property
District

Number of Resources within Property

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>14</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>9</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>29</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National

Register: None - As a unit of the National Park system, Fort Necessity NB is listed on the National Register. None of the park's structures have been documented.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A "Historic Resources of the Natl. Road in Pennsylvania"

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DEFENSE/battle site = Battlefield

DEFENSE/fortification = palisade

DOMESTIC/hotel and COMMERCE/restaurant = Inn providing lodging and meals

TRANSPORTATION/road-related = Highway

LANDSCAPE/forest

LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land = meadow

Current Functions *education*

~~OTHER/visitor use for interpretation of the events associated with the history of Fort Necessity National Battlefield, travel on the National Road, and tavern life along the National Road~~

LANDSCAPE/forest

LANDSCAPE/unoccupied land = meadow

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Monument/marker = Commemorative monument

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation = Picnic area, hiking trail, cross-country skiing

The form should contain all the categories evident on the printed NR Form, not just those relevant to this nomination.

1st of 2 not already listed as a site to be deleted/moved to 57 name

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: Reconstructed 1750s palisade

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal (~~Mount Washington Tavern~~)

Materials See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

Fort Necessity National Battlefield is located approximately 12 miles east of Uniontown in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The park is in an area known as Laurel Highlands and is adjacent to the western ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. U.S. Highway 40, which includes part of the right of way of the National Road, passes through the park.

Three discontinuous units totalling 902.8 acres comprise the park. The main park unit encompasses 852 acres located between Uniontown and Farmington, Pennsylvania. The main unit includes the Great Meadows battlefield site, the fort, Mount Washington Tavern, a visitor center and administrative and maintenance facilities. The Braddock's Grave unit consists of 24 acres about one mile west of the main unit on US 40. Jumonville Glen unit, consisting of 26 acres, is about seven miles west of the main park unit along the crest of Chestnut Ridge. In addition, traces of Braddock's Road exist in two areas of the park. A portion of the trace is maintained at Braddock's Grave, and one half mile of the trace near the battlefield site is managed for interpretation and recreational purposes.

Contributing Resources

Cultural Landscape

The natural environment influences not only the character and composition of the land but also the ways in which people use the land. Topographic variations, the abundance or scarcity of natural resources, in addition to the potential for transportation are some of the factors that influence the way people utilize land. Natural features that influenced the historic events of 1754 at Fort Necessity include the Great Meadows and surrounding dense vegetation, a water source in the Great Meadows Run, and its proximity to the natural corridor that facilitated transportation between the Potomac and Ohio Rivers.

summarized
resource types
status.

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These same components influenced land use long before and long after George Washington's first battle.

During prehistoric periods, the meadows and swamps of western Pennsylvania provided relief from dense virgin forest. Prehistoric populations were attracted to areas along streams and lowlands that often were surrounded by forests of red maple, white oak, alders, willow and others. Edible fruits and nuts including acorns, black walnuts, crab apples, wild cherries, and blueberries grew throughout the forest. Evergreens such as white pine were interspersed in the primarily deciduous woodland. For at least a thousand years before Euro-Americans arrived at Great Meadows, indigenous American cultures cultivated the land and produced domesticated plants.

Before the French and Indian War, employees of the Ohio Company were guided by Chief Nemacolin to mark the northwestward route that eventually would be called Braddock's Road. This pathway would carry traffic between the company's base of operations at Wills' Creek (Cumberland, MD) and the point at the forks of the Ohio that became Pittsburgh. In 1753 the Ohio Company opened the road and further improved it in early 1754. Later in the year, Washington passed over the road on an emissary assignment to contact the French in the Ohio Valley. Washington's men improved the road as far as the west side of Laurel Hill to enable accommodation of wagons and artillery. The Virginia forces arrived at the Great Meadows on May 24, 1754.

Washington selected the Great Meadows as a base of operations because of its location along the transportation route and the natural resources in this open, treeless area and surrounding forest. The resources included an abundance of nutritious grasses for his horses and cattle and water from Great Meadows Run. The meadow was a saucer-shaped, wet lowland surrounded by densely forested hillsides. The advantages of the natural resources and the pressing need for protection from attack by French and Indian forces contributed to Washington's decision to build a palisade fortification in the meadow. To

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prepare for the fort's construction, grass and bushes were cleared from the meadow along with timber from the hillside. Clearing this vegetation would force the French and Indian forces to fight from cover, beyond the range of their firearms. Embankments and trenches were constructed around the fort.

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Material
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Leaving his supplies and some of his men to protect them, Washington set out to find a small French force that had moved into the area. After marching all night, Washington and his men confronted the French on May 28, 1754. A skirmish took place in a small hollow, or glen, about seven miles west of the Great Meadows. The French most likely selected the site for the shelter and protection provided by a steep rock face and ledge. The 40-50 foot high slate gray cliff towered above a gently-sloping to level area with heavily forested surroundings. A stream coursed through a gap in the cliff. The natural wilderness features of the site would have provided the French with a feeling of safety. The brief skirmish resulted in the death or capture of all except one of the French forces. The dead included Joseph Coulon De Villiers, Sieur de Jumonville.

After Washington's defeat at Fort Necessity on July 4, 1754, Major General Edward Braddock commanded British regiments in America with orders to take offensive action against the French. In 1755, Braddock followed Washington's Road and improved and widened it for the passage of his heavy wagons and artillery to within six miles of Fort DuQuesne. Braddock's assault on Fort DuQuesne failed and he was mortally wounded. He was buried in the middle of the road on the east side of Braddock Run about a mile from Great Meadows. The road became known as Braddock's Road and was one of the main thoroughfares into Ohio in the latter portion of the eighteenth century. Much of Braddock Road passing through the park southwest of the fort was probably a farm road into the twentieth century. In 1804, workmen repairing the road removed Braddock's remains and reburied them at the present gravesite at the foot of a large tree. For a number of years, the grave was enclosed by a board fence within which several pine trees grew. Twenty-three acres of land around the gravesite were purchased by the General Braddock Memorial Park Association. A 25-ton granite monument was erected and dedicated October 15, 1913.

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After the French and Indian War, the Great Meadows slowly became a wilderness again. As early as 1767, Washington acquired a tract of 234 acres that included the fort. He described the land as situated halfway between Cumberland and Pittsburgh, noted that Braddock Road passes through it, and declared the site "an excellent stand for a Publican." Washington's writings twice refer to a house or "little improved" tenement on the land for which he never received any rent.

The National Road (originally Cumberland Road) was conceived by George Washington in 1784 as a communication link to maintain unity between East and West in a rapidly growing nation. An act of Congress established the road in 1806 and maintained it until 1837. (National Old Trails Road, by Waddell.) At some locations the road was built on the roadbed of Braddock's Road just as the latter had followed Washington's Road which succeeded the paths of early Native Americans. East of Fort Necessity the National Road generally follows the Braddock Road alignment.

Travel along the National Road declined in the 1850s with the establishment of the railroad, but in its day, the National Road was the most widely-known, widely-traveled road in the United States. It also was famous for its taverns which were found nearly every mile along the mountain division. The Mount Washington tavern was constructed in the 1830s alongside the National Road on acreage once owned by Washington. The road was thriving with activity by this time, and this masonry building constructed by Nathaniel Ewing may have been preceded by a small log house. Other structures would have existed to support the operations of the tavern such as stables, smokehouse, summer kitchen, spring house, wash house, and privies. In addition, county records for Mount Washington mention a "meeting house." Late nineteenth century photographs

buildings

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Narrative Description

1 NS source

show a wagon shed/carriage house from the National Road heyday ca. 1830-1850. A spring and watering trough were across the present-day U.S. 40 from the carriage house. However, none of these structures are in existence today. Oral tradition speaks of an apple orchard likely planted in the 1840s between 80 and 230 feet downslope from the tavern.

In 1822, travelers on the National Road noted that the outlines of the fort in the Great Meadows could still be seen even though the area was covered by trees and underbrush. Another account from 1825 states that adjacent lands had been under cultivation for some time, but the actual fort site had not been disturbed. The level bottom of the meadow was covered by long grass and small bushes. In 1854, a traveler described Braddock Road as skirting the rising ground to the south of the fort, and the meadow as being highly cultivated and improved.

Conf. 2

When farmer/rancher Godfrey Fazenbaker purchased the tavern and fort acreage in 1856, the fort site was still cleared and "cultivated as a meadow." Some of the forest lands in the area remained. Fazenbaker cleared a portion of the wooded areas on his land for agricultural fields, but vowed never to plow the fort site even though it was the "richest spot on his farm." Fazenbaker straightened the course of Great Meadows Run to make a drainage ditch and effectively destroyed a portion of the fort's outline. Fences were built across the meadow and an "all weather" lane was built across the bottom land close to the fort. By the 1880s, the tree lines were still somewhat close to the fort.

building

After purchase of the tavern, Fazenbaker converted the structure to a residence and built a frame addition circa 1873-1874 on the west side of the brick structure. A one-story shed was near the addition. Other structures related to the Fazenbaker farm include a log tenant house probably constructed after 1836 where the former park maintenance area was located. A barn, possibly built circa 1860, was located about 300 yards southeast of the tavern and had been removed by 1931.

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Photographs from the early 1900s show the meadow as cleared with only one or two small trees. The surrounding lands were cleared and plowed. The sloping hill between Fort Necessity and Washington Tavern was completely cleared of trees until the 1930s. During this time, the CCC planted mostly pines between the stockade and the entrance road and on the slope between the tavern and fort. South of the fort, the hill remains cleared.

The increasing popularity of automobiles precipitated the Federal Highway Act of 1921. A flurry of highway traffic would once again develop along the National Road corridor with the construction of U.S. 40. This highway, which bisects the main unit of the park, approximately follows the National Road right of way. U.S. 40 served as one of the nation's main transcontinental highways before the creation of the interstate highway system.

Many changes occurred to the landscape during the 1930s. On March 22, 1932, Walter Fazenbaker deeded to the United States of America the two acres of land around Fort Necessity which would be administered by the superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park as Fort Necessity National Battlefield. The remaining acres were sold to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and dedicated Fort Necessity State Park. The tavern was converted into a museum. In 1931-32, the fort was reconstructed inaccurately in the shape of a square based on a mistaken alignment. It was not until 1953 that additional archeological investigation ascertained the fort was circular, and it was accurately reconstructed. ✓

extent?
arid?
status?
In 1935-37, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was located at Fort Necessity. The Corps constructed barracks and other support buildings at the site of the present day administration and maintenance facilities. The Fort Necessity Memorial Association had hoped the CCC would repair and restore the tavern, but very little, if any, of this work was actually done by the Corps. The Corps planted trees, constructed small dams, built bridges, culverts, picnic areas and roadways. The buildings were razed, but many of the

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other structures remain today including two picnic shelters with fireplaces, and roadways with culverts and bridges.

48 In 1961, Congress authorized the acquisition of Fort Necessity State Park from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The state donated the parcel of land with the tavern conveyed by the Fazenbakers in 1932 and the parcel of land surrounding Braddock's Grave. Since 1962 the tavern has been restored and utilized to interpret the National Road and life along the road in the early nineteenth century. In 1974, Congress authorized the acquisition of the 25 acres in Jumonville Glen.

Today, the meadow consists of a swampy tract of land some 200 to 300 yards wide. Vegetation is typical marshy growth consisting mostly of grass in addition to alders and small bushes along the banks of a small meandering run that traverses the site. The grass around the fort is regularly maintained. A visitor center constructed in the 1960s is within the viewshed of the fort to the north. Other park development includes roadways, a parking lot northeast of the fort, and trails between the tavern, visitor center, and fort. New park headquarters and maintenance buildings southeast of the fort are concealed by woods.

Jumonville Glen was clear cut, but second and third growth has restored some of the wilderness ambience of the historic scene. A significant change to the landscape inside the glen is the stone stairway set into a cleft of the cliff. Originally wood, the steps were probably built by the Sons of the American Revolution in the 1930s as part of the bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birth. A change to the landscape outside of the glen is the visitor parking lot and trail from the parking lot to the bottom of the rock outcropping.

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The Great Meadows

The Great Meadows lies within the central land holding of Fort Necessity National Battlefield. The site has been known as the Great Meadows since its earliest known appearance in any historical record. Historically, the Meadows was identified as a large natural clearing in the heavily wooded regions between Chestnut and Laurel Ridges, in what became southwestern Pennsylvania.

Early accounts describe it as an open space roughly one mile in length and approximately three hundred yards in width. Early traders and trappers knew it as one of the region's few areas of any size for grazing stock. A small stream bisected the meadows. This stream, or run, was insufficient to drain the clearing which was susceptible to seasonal flooding. The Great Meadows was the only known large clearing in the heavy forested area between Laurel and Chestnut ridges. In 1754, George Washington erected a small fortification in the Great Meadows and suffered his first military defeat at the hands of a combined force of French troops and Native American warriors from the Ohio country.

Today, the Great Meadows remains a large open space, but its dimensions have changed somewhat due to extensive clearing of the forests that surrounded it in the eighteenth century. Some varieties of marsh vegetation still inhabit the meadow. The perimeter is inhabited by second-growth forest or a variety of exotic plants. The tree line approximates the historic line on the northeast and south, but is open field on the north and west.

In addition to clearing the forests, other changes occurred to the Great Meadows during the 19th and 20th centuries when the area was farmed or used for cattle grazing. The meadow was drained by installing drainage tiles and channelizing the streams. During the 1932 reconstruction of the fort, the level of the ground was raised with one foot of fill dirt to further improve drainage.

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Fort Necessity Stockade

A reconstructed fort was erected in the Great Meadows in 1931, as part of efforts to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. This construction was based upon data gathered in an archeological excavation, conducted in 1931, that incorrectly identified the outline of the fort. The new stockade was significantly larger than that erected by Washington's troops in 1754. Subsequent archeological investigations conducted in the 1950s uncovered remains of the timbers of the fort, which was burned after Washington's surrender. The archeological remains pinpointed the original stockade's actual outline and Washington's stockade was reconstructed on its original site in 1954. The reconstructed circular palisade is 52 feet in diameter, constructed of white oak logs set on end in an earth foundation. The logs were replaced in 1981 and 1989.

It is in fair condition, but vulnerable to weather and biological deterioration. The reconstructed fort evokes a sense of the Great Meadows historic quality, and is essential to proper interpretation of the events of July 3, 1754, which triggered the French and Indian War.

Fort Necessity Storehouse

Historically, the storehouse served as storage for supplies and ammunition and as limited shelter for Washington's troops. The reconstruction of the original storehouse is fourteen feet square and built of de-barked round logs with lime and plaster daubing between the logs. The shed roof is covered in deer skin hides which are replaced every two to five years. The structure was constructed in 1954 and is in fair condition as a result of weather, biological degradation and erosion.

Fort Necessity Earthworks

After the battle of Jumonville, Washington's men constructed a defensive line of

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earthworks around Fort Necessity to provide some protection for troops outside of the fort's log walls. The diamond-shaped reconstruction of 1954 measures 363 feet in length and is two feet above grade with trenching on the inside. The structures are in good condition.

Fort Necessity Monument

The monument was erected adjacent to Mount Washington Tavern by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the Citizens of Fayette County in 1926. This marker represents one of the earliest efforts to commemorate the events that took place at Fort Necessity. The structure consists of a native sandstone boulder, turned on end, measuring 7 feet by 3 feet by 15 feet, and resting on a concrete slab foundation. A bronze plaque with raised lettering is mounted on the face of the boulder. The monument is in good condition.

Jumonville Glen

Jumonville Glen is the site of the first skirmish between French troops and Virginia militia under the command of George Washington. This fight helped trigger the French and Indian

War, known in Europe as the Seven Years' War. The site includes the rock formation under which the troops of the Sieur de Jumonville were camped when they were attacked by Washington's detachment.

As part of the effort to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth, the Sons of the American Revolution modified the site by constructing stairs in the rock outcropping to facilitate visitation and interpretation at the glen.

A gravel road provides access to the property. An interpretive trail descends from the parking lot to the bottom of the rock outcropping. The glen itself shows unmistakable evidence of clear cutting, which is a significant change from the glen's historic character. The area is still wooded with second-growth timber, and this growth provides an ambience consistent with the historic setting.

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Jumonville Glen Battlefield Monument

The monument is a sandstone/brownstone marker installed in 1932 by the Sons of the American Revolution to commemorate the 200th. anniversary of Washington's birthday. It honors Colonel George Washington's victory in battle at Jumonville Glen against the French prior to The Great Meadows battle. The monument is a rough-cut boulder measuring seven feet high, four feet wide, two feet deep and bears an inscribed plaque. Condition of the structure is good.

Washington's First Battlefield Tablet

The tablet is part of the park development commemorating Washington's 200th birthday and his first battle and victory. It was placed at the entrance to the Jumonville Glen area July 4, 1932 by the Sons of the American Revolution. The marker consists of a wrought iron pedestal three feet, three inches high and contain an inscribed plaque. It is in good condition.

Jumonville Glen Road

The earth and fieldstone road was part of the commemoration development in the park by the Sons of the American Revolution. Constructed in 1931-32, the road provides access to Washington's first battle site and it is 1,460 feet long by 10 feet wide. It is gravel-paved and in good condition.

Jumonville Glen Culverts

Part of the commemoration development undertaken by the Sons of the American Revolution in 1931-32. The culverts provided erosion control under the access road to the site of Washington's first battle. The two extant culvert systems are composed of stone and terra cotta and are 20 feet long. Both systems are headwall type with inlet drop basins. The culverts are in fair condition and vulnerable to vegetation, neglect and erosion.

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Jumonville Glen Stairs

The stairs are part of the 1931-32 development by the Sons of the American Revolution in honor of Washington's 200th birthday. The stone stairs were built to allow visitor access to the site of Washington's first battle. This portion of the development consists of a stone-lined trail with retaining wall and winding steps in a natural wall cleft about 30 feet long and five feet wide. The steps may be destroyed because the condition is poor and the steps are considered extremely dangerous when wet.

Braddock's Grave and Monument

After the disastrous Battle of the Monongahela on July 9, 1755, the wounded Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock was transported from the field by his retreating column to a place approximately one mile north of the Great Meadows, where he died on July 14. Here his men buried him in the roadway named for him. His remains were discovered fifty years later by a road-building crew, and reburied about one hundred yards away. In 1909, the Braddock Road Memorial Park Association was formed to preserve the site and raise funds to erect a memorial to the General. The monument was dedicated in 1913. The site includes the grave site with marker, the Braddock monument, and a trace of the Braddock Road. The granite monument is 12 feet high and is mounted on a stepped base foundation 8 feet square. A 4 foot square tapered shaft contains bronze plaques and medallions on all four sides. The structure is in good condition.

Braddock Grave Monument Fence

Constructed in 1913, the wrought iron fence encloses the reburial site of General Edward Braddock. The structure is painted brown and measures 16 feet 3 inches by 16 feet 2 1/2 inches and is 4 feet 4 inches high with a gate on the north elevation. Condition is good.

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Braddock Grave Tablet

The grave marker was placed in 1913 at General Edward Braddock's first burial site in the original Braddock Road trace. It consists of a wrought iron tablet on a concrete pedestal base, 3 feet 2 1/2 inches high, set inside a concrete curb border that indicates the grave boundaries. The tablet is in fair condition due to the effects of weather, vandalism and neglect.

The Braddock Road Trace

The Braddock Road was built in 1755 by the forces of British Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock in their abortive campaign against the French Fort Duquesne at the Forks of the Ohio River. The road followed the earlier trace cut by George Washington's troops the previous year. Braddock Road remained in continual use until construction of the National Road in 1811-1820.

Several sections of the Braddock Road still remain within the park boundaries. Intact portions are found east and west of Gist Road towards an open field south of the fort. These traces often appear as depressed trenches on the landscape while other traces of the road are less discernible. Approximately one-half mile of visible remains of the roadway run through the park. Condition of the trace is poor, the result of erosion, neglect, and vegetation growth.

Braddock Grave Braddock Road Trace

Located in the Braddock's Grave section of the park, this portion of the road trace was the site of General Edward Braddock's burial. The section of road is approximately 450 feet long and 10 feet wide and is partially chipped and sealed. Only the maintained portion is visible and condition is considered fair due to neglect, erosion and park operations.

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The Old Braddock Road Monument

The monument was erected in 1931 by the Sons of the American Revolution to commemorate the Old Braddock Road, the first road in the area to Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh). The structure is a monolithic block of sandstone/brownstone 6 feet wide, five feet seven inches high, and 1 foot 9 inches deep and contains a bronze plaque. Condition is considered good.

Orchard Spring

A 1930s development by the Pennsylvania Department of Forests NPS and Waters, Bureau of Parks, the Orchard Spring structure was constructed over a spring used by travelers along the historic Braddock Road/National Road. The CCC may have been involved in the construction of this stone structure near Braddock's Grave. The stones are rough-cut, squared, and random-laid with raised mortar joints and rounded corners curving to 90 degree walls. Significance has not been evaluated, and condition is poor due to lack of maintenance.

Mount Washington Tavern

The Mount Washington Tavern, constructed ca. 1830-1840 is a two and one-half story brick masonry building, approximately 50 feet long and 40 feet wide. It is located at the crest of a hill on a sloping site, and because of the severity of the slope, the full stone basement is at ground level in the rear. While historically the site would have contained many support structures such as barns, corrals, storage buildings and a summer kitchen, none remain. A spring and watering trough were located across the road.

The Mount Washington Tavern, can best be described as an example of builder architecture, incorporating less formal design and fewer elements of the vocabulary of any particular architectural style than designed architecture. The one specific exterior feature which strongly reflects an actual architectural style is the front door way. The entire

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composition of engaged columns, broken cornice and particularly the elliptical arch are all characteristics of Early Republic/Federal period architecture.

The structure served as an inn and tavern throughout the remainder of the so-called "heyday" of the National Road. The tavern was built by Nathaniel Ewing of Uniontown on property once owned by George Washington. After 1854, the tavern was used as a private residence for the Fazenbaker family, who farmed the land around the tavern for three generations.

In 1932, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania bought the tavern building and converted it into a museum for the Fort Necessity National Battlefield site. In 1962, the National Park Service accepted title of the tavern and incorporated it as an element of Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Since this time, the tavern has been used to interpret the history of the National Road and tavern life along the Road in the first half of the nineteenth century. The structure remains at its original location adjacent to US 40 and is in fair condition.

Mount Washington Retaining Wall

The retaining wall is associated with the Mount Washington Tavern complex and is near the site of a carriage shed and barn that once stood west of the tavern. The wall is constructed of sandstone/brownstone block approximately 60 feet long from the period 1930-1937. It is in good condition.

The National Road Trace

The National Road was the only internal improvement project financed and constructed by the federal government in the ante-bellum era. Between 1810 and the 1850s, the road was to provide reliable transportation and communication between the Atlantic seaboard and the rapidly developing trans-Appalachian west, from Cumberland, Maryland to Vandalia, Illinois. Approximately 90 miles of this first federal interstate highway passed through southwestern Pennsylvania. Part of the eastern segment in Pennsylvania follows the corridor of the Braddock Road.

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Portions of U.S. 40 overlay the original right of way of the National Road, and a short section of the National Road right of way falls within the boundaries of Fort Necessity National Battlefield. A small portion of curve, 8 feet to 13 feet wide passes directly in front of Mount Washington Tavern. The original bed is buried under a macadam surface and both ends of the segment were destroyed by construction of U.S. 40. Condition of the existing remnant is fair, and it receives impacts from visitors, vegetation and the elements.

Wharton Township Monument

In the period 1920-1930 the Wharton Township Monument was erected to honor "Sons and Daughters of Wharton Township who participated in the wars fought for the establishment and preservation of liberty at home and overseas." The monument is a rough-cut sandstone/brownstone monolith, measuring 7 1/2 feet by 7 1/2 feet, with a carved eagle on top. The structure is established on a concrete base. A bronze plaque with raised lettering is mounted on the monolith. A low wall, 3 feet, 3 inches high, in the form of a cut stone bench flanks each side of the structure. The monument is in good condition.

Archeological Resources

Several archeological investigations have been conducted within the boundaries of Fort Necessity National Battlefield. These investigations have focused primarily in the area of the 1754 battle in the Great Meadows and around Mount Washington Tavern.

A 1953 survey in the Great Meadows settled the question of size and shape of the fort. The investigation established the fort's circular shape and location at the north end of two opposing ditch/earthwork features and adjacent to the stream bed of Great Meadow Run. The 1953 survey also provided evidence for the partial burning of the stockade by French troops as evidenced by charcoal, burned earth, and water-preserved charred post ends.

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The present reconstructed stockade is located about one foot above the original features. The entrenchments are close to their original size and shape and in the original location. The storehouse most likely rested directly on the ground, and no archeological evidence was found to enable discerning the exact size and location of the structure.

Surveys have identified the historic stream bed in two locations north of the present-day Great Meadow Run and at the north end of the stockade. A 1931 investigation suggested the historic channel most likely measured three to ten feet wide and was up to three feet deep. Recent excavations also revealed the location of about two feet of fill in Great Meadows. This fill probably was deposited in the 1930s during the first reconstruction of the fort and development of the park. A portion of one abutment for a stone-arch bridge from the 1930s was identified along the current stream.

Some of the artifacts recovered in the Great Meadows excavations include musket balls, fragments of clay tobacco pipe stems, gun flints, brass buttons, brass fastener, bottle glass fragments, tea pot lid, Indian arrow head and the brass tip of a sword scabbard. No remnants of small arms, gear for horses or construction tools were recovered.

A 1988 remote sensing survey in Great Meadows north of the fort and Great Meadow Run identified a possible remnant of a nineteenth century farm road (Fazenbacker Lane), a potential fortification ditch, fire pits, and earth features. These features could be associated with cultivation, early twentieth-century park development, or possibly an encampment. A 1990 testing program in this area recovered few artifacts (cinders and architectural debris), and most date from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century.

Investigations at Mount Washington Tavern have involved gathering information about the structure's architectural history. Findings include the potential discovery of porch footings, determination of location and function of outbuildings, and location of artifact

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deposits. Discoveries also include an intact, dressed stone, foundation wall of a late-nineteenth century frame addition (which was demolished in 1931) and a possible root cellar or half-cellar under the addition. A concentration of stone and brick rubble from the tavern's construction period along with a builder's trench was found adjacent to the north wall.

Shovel tests conducted in 1995 at Jumonville Glen and Braddock's Grave yielded no significant cultural deposits in either study area. The major portion of the recovered artifacts were historical/modern consisting of metal can fragments and modern bottle and curved glass fragments. A few finds were prehistoric isolated artifacts such as chert and rhyolite flakes and a chert point.

CCC-Era Related Resources

From 1935 to 1937, the site of Fort Necessity was occupied by a camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Initiated during the First New Deal of Franklin Roosevelt, the CCC was a federal relief program intended to provide employment for young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, through the creation of work projects that focused on conservation of natural resources. At Fort Necessity, the Corps planted over 50,000 trees, constructed small dams, and built bridges, culverts, picnic areas, barracks and other structures.

The barracks and other housing were razed. The resources remaining from the CCC era include two picnic shelters, picnic area fireplaces and drinking fountains, culverts, roadways, two bridges and some tree stands.

Gist Road

The road is part of park development accomplished jointly by the CCC and the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, Bureau of Parks in the period 1935-1937. The road provided access to a former parking area, camp ground, picnic area, and a state

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maintenance area. It is 24 feet wide by .6 miles long, constructed of fieldstone and asphalt, and winds to the Picnic Area Loop road. The road is in good condition. Its significance has not been evaluated.

Gist Road Bridge

The Gist Road Bridge was constructed during the CCC period (1935-1937) to ford a natural waterway in the park. The stone and concrete structure has an asphalt surface, experiences severe impacts from park operations, but remains in good condition. Significance has not been evaluated.

Gist Road Culverts and Drainage Swells

The culverts and drainage swells along Gist Road were part of the shared development by the CCC and PA Department of Forests and Waters, Bureau of Parks during 1935-1937. The culvert and swale systems provided erosion control and storm water management along and under the roadway. The nine culverts consist of 16-18 inch corrugated metal pipes 30-40 inches long and the swales are lined with stones. The systems are in fair condition and are impacted by park operations, neglect and vegetation.

Picnic Shelters (2)

Constructed during the CCC era (1935-1937) at Fort Necessity, the two shelters represent distinctive characteristics of the depression era that established an architectural and landscape design identity - typically a rustic style using materials indigenous to the area. A pavilion at each site measures 23 feet by 23 feet by 15 feet, 10 inches high. Each is situated on a concrete foundation and has chestnut log posts with branch supports and log sills to support the hip roof. The roof is covered with cedar shingles and the frame is enclosed with log railings and openings on opposite sides. Failing members were replaced with oak in 1991 and the shelters are in good condition.

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Picnic Area Fireplaces

The fireplaces are part of the CCC development that is a representative example of depression-era architectural and landscaped design in the park system. The structures consist of Ashlar fireplaces on concrete slab foundations with iron grills. Measurements of the seven fireplaces range from 3 feet, 4 inches to 4 feet, 2 inches high at the chimney. They are in fair condition and impacted by inappropriate maintenance techniques, visitation, and neglect.

Picnic Area Drinking Fountains

The drinking fountains are part of the representative depression-era CCC development at the park during 1935-1937. The three concrete and sandstone/brownstone fountains have an Ashlar pedestal with an enclosed spigot and open basin area. They are in fair condition and are impacted by visitation, vegetation, and inappropriate maintenance techniques.

Picnic Area Loop Road and Access Road

Built during the CCC period at the park (1935-1937), the gravel loop road is approximately 5400 feet long and 20 feet wide and provides access to the picnic off of Gist Road. The road is in good condition.

Picnic Area Loop Road Culverts

Part of CCC era development, the culverts provide erosion control for the access road to the park's picnic area. Associated w/ CCC development at park. The picnic area construction helps define the landscape's transformation from farmland to parkland. It embodies distinctive characteristics of the Depression that established an architectural & landscape design identity for the park.

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Picnic Area Loop Road Culvert Bridge

This concrete and sandstone/brownstone bridge was built during the CCC era. Like the loop road culvert, the bridge helps define the park's architectural and landscape design identity.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Non-Contributing Resources

Buildings

Visitor Center
Park Headquarters
Maintenance Facilities

Contributing

Significance

Buildings

Fort Necessity Stockade	National
Fort Necessity Storehouse	National
Mount Washington Tavern	National

Structures

Fort Necessity Earthworks	National
Braddock Road Trace	National
Braddock Grave - Braddock Road Trace	National
National Road Trace	National
Mount Washington Retaining Wall	Contributing
Jumonville Glen Road	Contributing
Jumonville Glen Culverts	Contributing

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Jumonville Glen Stairs	Contributing
Orchard Spring	Not evaluated
Gist Road	Not evaluated
Gist Road Bridge	Not evaluated
Gist Road Culverts and Drainage Swales	Not evaluated
Picnic Shelter(2)	State
Picnic Area Fireplaces	State
Picnic Area Loop Road and Access Road	State
Picnic Area Loop Road Culverts	State
Picnic Area Loop Road Culvert Bridge	State

Sites

The Great Meadows	National
Jumonville Glen	National
Braddock Grave Memorial	National

Objects

Braddock Grave Monument	Contributing
Braddock Grave Monument Fence	Contributing
Jumonville Glen Battlefield Monument	Contributing
Braddock Grave Tablet	Contributing
The Old Braddock Road Monument	Contributing
Washington's First Battlefield Tablet	Contributing
Fort Necessity Monument	State
Wharton Township Monument	Local
Picnic Area Drinking Fountains	State

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monitors
upcoming
sheets?

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8. Statement of Significance

The NR Form would be filled out separately, reproduce the criteria with checks, delete info not required.

Applicable National Register Criteria:

Criteria A - Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criteria B - Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criteria D - Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Criteria E - a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

Criteria F - a commemorative property.

Criteria C - a birthplace or grave

Areas of Significance

Military

Politics/Government

~~Exploration/Settlement~~ *Commerce*

Transportation

~~Ethnic Heritage-Native American~~

~~Social History~~

Conservation

Period of Significance 1754-1937 1857

1933-1937

Significant Dates July 3-4, 1754: Washington's battle against French

1806-1850: ~~Westward Expansion; National Road; Mt. Washington Tavern~~

~~June 10, 1933: National Park Service became steward of the two acres~~

~~1935-1937: Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Fort Necessity encompassing the site of the fort; proclaimed Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site~~

Significant Person

Washington, George

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Native American

should explain in narrative, not on form.

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Architect/Builder See continuation sheets

Narrative Statement of Significance

Fort Necessity National Battlefield commemorates the opening skirmishes and campaigns of the French and Indian War, and the beginning of George Washington's military career. The British victory in the war eliminated the France as a colonial power in North America. The conflicts that arose in the war's aftermath between Great Britain and its American colonies sowed the seeds for the American Revolution. Washington's experiences at Fort Necessity and in the war that followed had a profound impact on his development as a military leader and enabled him to cope with the challenges and crises of the war for independence. Fort Necessity also interprets the development and operation of the National Road, the first federally-constructed and maintained interstate highway in the United States. The National Road served as the main east-west overland corridor in ante-bellum United States, linking the eastern seaboard with the rapidly developing trans-Appalachian West. This National Park Service site is associated with the following areas of significance: Exploration and Settlement, Military history, and Transportation.

In the spring of 1754, a small force of Virginia militia under the command of George Washington surprised and attacked a French force in a remote glen of what became western Pennsylvania. Washington's troops, with the assistance of a small band of Mingos led by the Iroquois viceroy, Tanacharison, destroyed the French force and killed its commander, Ensign Joseph Coulon de Villiers de Jumonville. This seemingly insignificant engagement represented the initial bloodletting between British, French, and Native American forces in the French and Indian War, a decade-long conflict that spanned four continents and ultimately embroiled most of the Great Powers of Europe.

The British victory in the war changed the relationships between Europeans, Americans, and Native Americans along the Alleghenies, the Great Lakes, and in the Ohio country. The British replaced the French in the west, and the Ohio tribes attempted to discover a new middle ground on which to communicate with this foreign power. Most important, the prosecution and outcome of the war initiated a profound alteration in the relationship between Great Britain and the thirteen colonies of the Atlantic seaboard.

The enormous energies expended in the conflict against the French generated new, or exacerbated old frictions between the colonies and the crown. The conduct of the war itself brought both colonial troops and civilians into more immediate contact with British military authority, a rude

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contrast to the freedom they had known under their provincial governments. Regular British regiments that remained in the colonies after the end of hostilities raised for many colonists the specter of a coercive force that could deny them their rights. The crown's efforts to raise revenue to support these troops and pay the cost of the war led to increasingly bitter debates over the colonists' status as English citizens and Parliament's authority over the colonies. British authorities banned further white emigration across the Allegheny Ridge. These conflicts helped trigger the American Revolution.

This conflict was only one in a series of wars the two empires had been waging intermittently since 1689. Increasingly, this protracted conflict had come to focus on the North American continent. Both powers expanded their colonial aspirations while directing them increasingly toward the same region: the headwaters of the Ohio River, on the west side of the Appalachian watershed.

For the French, control of the Ohio River would provide the vital artery that linked its growing settlements in the Ohio country and the Mississippi Valley with its more established presence along the St. Lawrence River in Canada. For the British, the forks of the Ohio at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers represented the gateway to the vast Ohio valley and trade with the various Native American tribes that inhabited the region. Of even greater potential value was the land itself. Speculation in western lands had increased significantly throughout the late 1740's and early 1750s.

The Iroquois Confederacy also watched the French encroachments with growing anxiety. They wished to retain sovereignty over the Ohio Valley tribes and maintain a position as middlemen in the trade between the English colonies and the western tribes. It was essential for the Iroquois that neither European power gain the upper hand in their struggle over the West. The Confederacy's political viability was based largely its ability to force each power to reckon with the possibility that the Iroquois could become the ally of its enemy.

The increasing power of some of the Algonquin-speaking tribes of the west added yet another,

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potentially destabilizing factor to the political turmoil that threatened to engulf the headwaters of the Ohio. Inter-tribal relations in the 1740s resulted in the formation of what the French referred to as "republics", that tended more and more to resist their French "fathers" as the leaders of the French-Algonquin alliance in the lands west of the Ohio. The potential loss of control over the Ohio tribes created a further incentive for the French to buttress their position on both sides of the

The creation of the Ohio Company in 1747 posed an additional threat to French interests in the Valley. The Ohio Company's investors sought to appropriate huge tracts of land and create permanent settlements on what were Native American hunting grounds. If successful, the Company's settlers eventually would displace the region's native tribes who were among the trading partners of the French. The company's presence potentially could sever any possible connection between the French settlements on the St. Lawrence and those in the Mississippi Valley.

The French, like the British, recognized by the early 1750s that the tribes and republics of the upper Ohio represented the key to control of the entire valley. Consequently, in 1753, the French reverted to a large demonstration of force in the upper Ohio Valley in order to assert their authority over the Ohio tribes. By 1753 French forces had begun construction on a chain of forts along the Allegheny from a point just south of Lake Erie. The last in this series of fortifications would be built in 1754, at the Forks of the Ohio. British and colonial officials reacted with alarm to what appeared at a distance to be a well-coordinated and forceful French movement toward the Forks of the Ohio. France's presence in the Ohio country seemed to send a clear challenge to the resolve of the British crown and British foreign policy became centered on a strategy of firmly countering French advances wherever they occurred.

Virginia's leaders, including the colony's lieutenant-governor, Robert Dinwiddie, reacted most vigorously to the French fortifications along the Allegheny. Dinwiddie pressed strongly for British forces to counter French aggression. Dinwiddie's warnings dovetailed with the increasingly assertive inclinations of the British cabinet. The Crown authorized the lieutenant-governor to

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"repel any attempt by force of arms; and...defend to the utmost of your power, all his possessions within your government, against any invader."

Dinwiddie's official directive carried a disclaimer that muddled the actual course the lieutenant-governor would take. He was informed that "...at the same time, as it is the king's resolution, not to be the aggressor, I am, in his majesty's name, most strictly to enjoin you, not to make use of the force under your command, excepting within the undoubted limits of his majesty's province."¹ Since the actual determination of the "undoubted limits" of his majesty's province was in subject to doubt, especially beyond the Alleghenies, any action that Dinwiddie took to oppose the French was potentially fraught with peril.

Dinwiddie sent an emissary to the French in the fall of 1753 to inform the French of the king's wishes that they withdraw from the Ohio Valley. He chose for the mission a young Virginia land holder, George Washington. Washington spoke no French, had no diplomatic experience and was only twenty-one years old. But the young Virginian countered these deficiencies with the fact that, as a shareholder in the Ohio Company, he had a vested interest in the outcome of the struggle for the Ohio Valley. His youth and ambition were important qualities that could help see him through what would almost certainly be an arduous journey.

Washington arrived at Fort Le Boeuf, the French outpost on French Creek a few miles south of Lake Erie, on December 11, 1753. The French commander greeted Washington and his party with unfailing courtesy, but showed absolutely no inclination to withdraw his forces from the contested area. His reply to the official letter ordering the French to vacate stated that the French King's rights to the lands of the Ohio Valley were "incontestable". He would

¹ Lord Holderness, British Southern Secretary, to Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie. August 28. 1753. Quoted in Fred Anderson, "War and Revolution in the Making of the American Republic." Volume I, "Death and Taxes, 1750-1755," p.36. Book manuscript in progress. With the author's permission.

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forward Dinwiddie's letter to his superiors so that they could make a proper decision concerning the "pretensions of the King of Great Britain."

Washington left Fort Le Beouf on December 16 to begin a reckless, headlong return trip to Williamsburg. He arrived a month later with news of French intentions and resolve that convinced the lieutenant-governor that war in the west was imminent. Dinwiddie issued orders for the creation of a two-hundred man militia force, which would proceed, under Washington's command to the Forks of the Ohio. He also awarded commissions to traders and Ohio Company officials already established on the periphery of the Ohio Valley and ordered them to begin construction of a fort at the Forks of the Ohio. Dinwiddie had interpreted the French response to his letter a hostile action, and felt justified in taking steps to resist them by force.

The tribes that occupied the upper Ohio Valley, particularly the Delawares, Shawnees, and Mingoes, or western Iroquois, viewed these proceedings with increasing anxiety. They generally had no wish to fall under French domination, but they saw no practical alternative. Their best hope, in the absence of any convincing expressions of British strength or intent, was to keep their options open in the ensuing Anglo-French confrontation.

Tanachrisson, the Iroquois viceroy, or "Half-King" who had nominal authority over the Ohio tribes, greatly desired to see some solid British presence in the region in order to shore up his own precarious position. French pressure combined with their own growing strength had gradually caused these tribes to spin out of their orbit around the Iroquois center of power at Onondaga, in New York. Their continued movement toward independence from Onondaga or toward alliance with the French would make the Half-King's political position in the Ohio country untenable. He desperately needed the support of the British, the only power that could answer the French threat.

While construction of the fort proceeded, Washington's small force was making its way toward the Forks of the Ohio. But he and his troops had not advanced to the crest of the Alleghenies

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when they received news on April 20 that the fort-building party had vacated the site. A large, heavily armed and well-equipped French force had arrived at the Forks three days earlier. The French commander bluntly ordered the English force to surrender or face immediate assault. The English commander prudently accepted generous terms from his counterpart and decamped the next day.

This disheartening news compounded Washington's own woes. His troops were undertrained, poorly equipped and ill-supplied. With the French now in possession of the Forks, Washington's mission seemed less tenable than ever. He continued his march, however, and on May 24, 1754, he and his force arrived at the Great Meadows, on the western side of Laurel Mountain.

Washington had first encountered the Great Meadows in the previous year, on his journey to Fort Le Boeuf. The meadows were conspicuous as the only large clearing within the heavily forested area between the Laurel and Chestnut ridges. The traders who passed through the area knew it as a grazing place for pack animals. The low-lying area was poorly drained, and its frequently swampy character prevented any appreciable tree growth. The vegetation in the meadows was predominantly clumps of elders and briers. Washington's men cleared the ground between the fort and the tree line, and used natural features in the meadows as entrenchments, behind which he placed his wagons.²

Ironically, Washington's victory over Jumonville's small force on May 28, only complicated his situation. The Half-King and his warriors executed the wounded French troops, including Jumonville, on the field. Tanaghrisson himself leapt upon the wounded Jumonville and, in the

² Washington wrote to Dinwiddie that "We have, with Nature's assistance, made a good Intrenchment, and by clearing the Bushes out of these meadows, prepar'd a charming field for an encounter." quoted in Ricardo Torres-Reyes, Ground Cover Study, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Pennsylvania. Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1970.

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ritual language of the Indian-French alliance, informed him that "you are not yet dead, my father." The Mingo then crushed the French officer's head with his tomahawk and "took out his Brains and washed his Hands with them and then scalped him." Tanacharison later claimed that he dispatched Jumonville to avenge his father, who had been boiled alive by allies of the French. However, his execution of the French officer may have been calculated to precipitate an irreparable breach between France and Great Britain.³ Unfortunately for the Virginians, one of the French soldiers escaped to carry news of the defeat back to Fort Duquesne.

After Washington and his troops returned to the Great Meadows, he forwarded a report on the fight at the glen to Dinwiddie. Rightfully fearing French and Indian retaliation for his attack on Jumonville's force, he ordered his men to erect a stockade in their camp. This fortification could accommodate only a portion of Washington's command, so he expanded his entrenchments to provide cover for the rest of his troops.

Despite the many problems and uncertainties facing him, Washington from all appearances contemplated an assault on Fort Duquesne itself.⁴ His efforts to hack his way through the dense

³ Again, the Half-King apparently was being careful not to limit his options in the narrowing space between the British and French Empires. According to the Seigneur de Contrecoeur, the French commander at Fort Duquesne, Tanachrisson reported that Jumonville had been killed outright in the exchange of musket fire. He also told Contrecoeur that the English intended to kill all the French troops with Jumonville and that only quick action by him and his warriors prevented a general massacre.

⁴ Washington pushed on towards the Forks of the Ohio after receiving reinforcements of both militia and British regulars, as well as some small pieces of artillery. Fred Anderson. War and Revolution in the Making of the American Republic, 1750-1794. Volume 1, "Death and Taxes, 1750-1775,". (unpublished manuscript, 1991). With the permission of the author.

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forests of the Alleghenies succeeding only in further exhausting his troops and their meager supplies. Worse, he soon learned that a large French force had left Fort Duquesne to repel his advance. He fell back to his camp in the Great Meadows. With his men too spent to continue the retreat, he took refuge in his meager fortifications and awaited the French attack.

The young Washington confronted an almost impossible situation. Many of his troops were sick or physically exhausted. Reinforcements in the form of one hundred British regulars from South Carolina had earlier supplemented his force. However, the British commander refused, and by British military law was not obligated, to submit to Washington's authority.⁵ The dispute over rank contributed to the downward spiral of morale at Fort Necessity.

The oncoming French force was led by Captain Louis Coulon de Villiers, the brother of the unfortunate Ensign Jumonville. The Sieur de Villiers commanded a force of 600 French regulars and Canadian militia, accompanied by over 100 Indian allies. This relatively overwhelming force came upon Washington's sick, disheartened, and outnumbered men on July 3, 1754. Washington, who had earlier described the Great Meadows as "a charming field for an encounter", formed his troops into a line of battle appropriate for a European style engagement. Villiers' force promptly opened fire from the line of trees in that part of the meadow, inflicting casualties and driving the colonials back to their fortifications.⁶

⁵ Under British military law, regular army officers, who were commissioned by the King, were superior to colonial militia officers, who took their commissions from colonial governors or provincial councils. This rule was changed during the course of the French and Indian War.

⁶ National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy reports in his current book Hidden Cities that Washington and his troops took refuge "behind the earthen walls of an ancient Indian ceremonial enclosure with his tattered force, calling the place 'Fort Necessity.' Kennedy's claim is interesting, but no contemporary accounts of the Great Meadows mention such structures. Roger Kennedy, Hidden Cities. The Discovery and Loss of Ancient North American Civilizations. New York: The Free Press, 1994.

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An all day firefight commenced, one in which every advantage rested with the attacking French and Native American force.

Washington's fort, such as it was, could only hold about fifty men. The remainder of his troops were situated in the shallow trenches that formed a ring around the palisade. Faulty planning had located the stockade and trenches within musket range of the woods. The French and Native Americans could fire with impunity from the cover of the dense woods fringing the meadow. This they did throughout the day, inflicting heavy casualties.

As the day wore on, a steady rain began to fall. The woods sheltered the attackers, enabling them to keep their powder and muskets dry. The arms and ammunition of the exposed defenders, on the other hand, gradually became soaked and useless. Their shallow trenches quickly filled with water, and by the end of the day the troops had been reduced to serving as helpless targets for their besiegers. In the face of an increasingly desperate situation, a number of Washington's troops broke into the rum stores. Assuming that they sooner or later would be massacred by the Native American allies of the French, they quickly drank themselves into an incoherent state. By nightfall, over one-quarter of Washington's troops had been killed or wounded. Effectively disarmed, their morale shattered, their fortifications a quagmire, the British and colonials could only wait through a miserable night for a dawn that almost certainly would bring annihilation.

Around eight o'clock, Villiers, the French commander, hailed the British lines, asking for a parley. To their astonishment, Washington and his officers realized that they were being offered the possibility of averting a complete catastrophe.⁷ Washington

⁷ As bad as the colonial position was, Villiers was not totally comfortable with his own situation. His men also had endured a difficult day and his Indian allies had made clear their intentions to depart the next day. Villiers had reason to fear the possibility of British reinforcements reaching the scene before he could secure a victory, and perhaps most important, he was unsure of the legality of completely destroying the colonial force in the absence of a declaration of war. It was to his advantage, therefore, to seek a quick resolution to the conflict.

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dispatched two officers, William Peyronie and the Dutch Jacob Van Braam to negotiate with the French. After the parley, Washington and the other officers huddled over an almost indecipherable document that laid out the terms of capitulation. For several hours, they tried to make out precisely what the French were asking them to agree to. Van Braam was probably the only in the group who spoke or read French, albeit imperfectly. His translation made the terms sound favorable, which in fact they were. The British and colonial forces would be allowed to withdraw with the honors of war, meaning that they would retain their arms, with the exception of their small cannon. Washington's signature on the document would be an explicit acceptance of responsibility for the death of Ensign Jumonville. The colonials also agreed not to return to the Ohio Country for a year and to return the prisoners taken in the fight at Jumonville Glen. To ensure that they lived up to the terms of the agreement, the colonial force would leave two officers hostage with the French, one of whom was Jacob Van Braam.

What Van Braam did not reveal, or perhaps did not understand himself, was that the terms of the surrender specified responsibility not just for the death, but of the assassination, of Jumonville.⁸

⁸ George Washington himself suspected that Van Braam, his former fencing instructor and friend of the family, had deliberately misled him on this issue. "That we were willfully or ignorantly deceived by our interpreter in regard to the word assassination I do aver, and will to my dying moment, so will every officer that was present." The Papers of George Washington. Colonial Series 1. 1748-August 1755. p. 169-170. Perhaps the young Washington was so mortified by his defeat that he hoped to deflect criticism from himself. It is just as likely that Van Braam knew exactly what he was doing. He may have concluded privately that the wording of the document was an insignificant exercise in semantics, when set against the disastrous fate that would befall the colonial force if the conflict continued.

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As a state of war did not yet formally exist between the two empires, this signed admission would be of enormous propaganda value in the war that almost certainly would follow. Of course, Washington and his officers had no alternative to accepting the deal, other than to continue a bloody and hopeless conflict.

Washington's men received their last demoralizing blow the following morning when they left their fortifications to begin the retreat towards Virginia. They expected to see among the French the Hurons, Miamis, Ottawas, and other "far Indians" of the west. To the contrary, one witness, recorded "what is most severe upon us...they were all our own Indians, Shawnees, Delawares, and Mingos."⁹ The fact that they once had been Great Britain's "own Indians" did not deter France's Native American allies from attacking and plundering the fleeing English. Indians killed two of Washington's troops, and scalped three others who lay unconscious and helpless from the previous night's drinking. Native American warriors harassed Washington's column for another full day as it made its disorganized retreat to the fort at Wills Creek.¹⁰ After the English troops retreated from the Great Meadows, the French troops and their Indian allies plundered what was

⁹ Robert Callender, quoted in Anderson, War and Revolution in the Making of the American Republic, p. 64.

¹⁰ The notion of a surrender with full honors as it was known among Europeans would have seemed almost incomprehensible to the Native American fighters at Fort Necessity. Regardless of their specific tribe, these warriors fought for three things: glory, captives, and booty. From this perspective, to allow an enemy to flee the field without having gained some tangible benefit from the engagement bordered on the bizarre. In this and other battles, Native American warriors overlooked the terms of capitulation and took it upon themselves to seize the prizes to which they felt entitled.

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left of the Virginians' stores. They then dismantled and burned the circle of logs that had been Fort Necessity.

The news of Washington's crushing defeat at the Great Meadows electrified Lieutenant-Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia. While the young Colonel's long-suffering troops either deserted their base at Wills Creek or languished without proper food or clothing, Dinwiddie labored mightily to organize a new expedition. But the Lieutenant-Governor found little support in the House of Burgesses, many of whose members resisted Dinwiddie's high-handed use of power. They were reluctant to fund any operations that seemed intended primarily to safeguard the speculative fortunes of the Ohio Company. While the Lt. Governor and the Burgesses sparred, the colony's military fortunes on the frontier declined precipitously.

The House of Burgesses reacted warily to the news of the debacle at Fort Necessity. But an alarmed British government responded quickly and energetically to the French threat on the Ohio. Within a week of the receipt of Dinwiddie's official dispatches, the British Northern Secretary, the Duke of Newcastle, and the Duke of Cumberland,¹¹ had secured the king's approval to send two regiments to America under the command of Major General Edward Braddock. Braddock's initial orders instructed him to undertake a three-stage offensive against the French. First, he would move against their strongholds in the Ohio country. Next, his force would move north to attack Fort Frederic, the French fortifications at Crown Point on Lake Champlain. Finally, he would secure control of the narrow isthmus connecting Nova Scotia with the mainland of Canada. This ambitious plan was soon expanded to include four simultaneous advances. In addition to the three named in the original strategic plan, an attack would also be launched against Fort Niagara.

Braddock's role grew from that of commander of two regiments to essentially supreme commander for all British forces in America. The colonies would contribute to a general defense

¹¹ The duke was the favorite son of King George II and also Captain-General of the British Army.

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fund to support this greatly expanded military operation. Braddock himself would act as the sole administrator of the fund. In addition, the colonies would provide the manpower required to bring to full strength the four regular regiments under Braddock's command.

France quickly caught the drift of Great Britain's new and aggressive posture regarding events in North America. The French reinforced their own colonial forces to counter the anticipated British offensives in the spring and summer of 1755. Two modest backcountry clashes had set in motion a chain of events that would unleash one of the most devastating wars of the eighteenth century. Braddock's offensive against Fort Duquesne ended in a bloody debacle. After splitting his forces, he advanced with an assault force to within 10 miles of Fort Duquesne, where his troops clashed with French and Indian forces. In the battle, the General was mortally wounded, and of the more than 1400 men who had followed Braddock on the march to Fort Duquesne, two-thirds, almost one thousand regular and colonial troops, were killed or wounded.

Washington, who had served as volunteer aide de camp to Braddock, rode ahead of the chaotic retreat to seek assistance from the remainder of the column, under the command of Colonel Dunbar. Two days after the battle, the first survivors met with their comrades in Dunbar's column. These terrified, exhausted and thoroughly demoralized men communicated their panic to the rest of the British force. Dunbar's troops hastily destroyed supplies and baggage, dumped ammunition and spiked their heavy guns. They then loaded the wounded who had not been abandoned on the retreat from the Monongahela into their empty wagons and continued their flight to Fort Cumberland, seventy-five miles away. Braddock did not make it to the Fort. Five days after the battle, he died and was buried in the road, at a spot only about a mile from the Great Meadows and the remains of Fort Necessity. Washington wrote that "to guard against a savage triumph, if the place should be discovered, they (Braddock's remains) were deposited in the Road over which the Army, Waggon, &ca. passed to hide every trace by which the

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entombment could be discovered." ¹² Braddock's defeat left the Virginia and Pennsylvania frontier were now wide open to attack. The Ottawas, Wyandots, Hurons, and France's other allies launched numerous assaults against Pennsylvania's Allegheny settlements. Many Shawnees, Delawares, and Mingoes joined with them, "and slaughter reigned on the British frontiers."¹³

The ensuing war shredded the scattered settlements in the valleys and forests of the Alleghenies. Panic-stricken backcountry settlers fled to the east as Native American warriors swept virtually unchecked through western and central Pennsylvania. The British army soon found itself fighting on several fronts, not just the Allegheny frontier. Defense of the western territories fell in the main to under-trained, inadequately-supplied Virginia troops, led once again by George Washington. For three harrowing years, Washington fought a frustrating, reactive campaign against highly skilled, mobile enemies who took the offensive at times and places of their own choice. Too often, all the Virginia troops could do was bear witness to the destruction and count up the losses.

Washington's long and frustrating campaign in the Ohio country ended only after the destruction of Fort Duquesne in November of 1758. Retreating French forces destroyed the fortress in the face of an overwhelming offensive led by British General John Forbes. Washington commanded the Virginia troops attached to Forbes' column. Five years on the Pennsylvania frontier profoundly shaped Washington, both as an individual and a military leader. Historian Fred Anderson writes that Washington

had acquired the professionalism of a British officer, even as he had been denied the commission that would have made him one. He had met many, and admired a few, regular leaders. He had learned how to give commands, and how to take them. He had gained self-confidence and self-control, and even though he had not learned humility, he had begun to understand his limitations. George Washington, at age twenty-seven, was not yet the man he would be at age forty or fifty, but he had come an immense distance in

¹² Hugh Cleland. George Washington in the Ohio Valley. p. 147.

¹³ Richard White. The Middle Ground. p. 243.

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five years' time. And the hard road he had travelled from Fort Necessity, in ways he would not comprehend for years to come, had done much to prepare him for the harder road that lay ahead.¹⁴

In many ways, the events at Fort Necessity set in motion the process that led to an American revolution. Just as importantly, they forged the man who, perhaps more than any single individual, helped ensure that the Revolution succeeded.

Washington remained involved in Western Pennsylvania for the rest of his life, as a speculator and land owner. Among his many holdings in the region were the Great Meadows, which he held until the time of his death. Washington had once noted that the site was "a very good stand for a Tavern"¹⁵, but he never succeeded in developing it as a profitable holding. He was correct, however, that the site had excellent potential as a tavern stand. The construction of the National Road put the Great Meadows on the most important overland route between the Atlantic seaboard and the rapidly developing trans-Appalachian West.

Throughout the last years of his life, Washington emphasized the importance of creating stronger transportation and communication links with the lands west of the Alleghenies. Other American leaders shared his concern and, after his death, continued to press for transportation improvements. Foremost among these was Albert Gallatin, a western Pennsylvanian who served as Secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson. In 1802, Gallatin revised a law on land sales in the Northwest Territories to provide for the construction of a road between the Atlantic seaboard and the trans-Appalachian west.¹⁶

¹⁴ Fred Anderson. *ibid.*, chapter VII, p. 100.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Torres, Louis. Special History Report. Albert Gallatin. Statesman, Diplomat, Humanitarian, Scientist. Friendship Hill National Historic Site, Pennsylvania. United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service. January, 1991. p. 11.

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When Ohio was admitted as a state in 1803, Congress mandated that five percent of the proceeds of land sales should be set aside for the construction of new roads, both intrastate and interstate. In 1806, the House passed into law a bill for the creation of a road "from Cumberland, in the state of Maryland, to the State of Ohio."

At the direction of President Jefferson, Gallatin set to work to prepare a comprehensive plan for the creation of an integrated transportation system, not only of roads but of canals and navigational improvements on rivers as well. The following year, the Secretary produced his "Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the Subject of Public Roads and Canals". Gallatin called for a long-range, federally-funded program of transportation improvements that focused on creating practical communication between east and west, not just in Pennsylvania, but throughout the nation.

Construction of the first leg of the National Road began in 1811, but the outbreak of the War of 1812 slowed progress. With the end of the war, work continued on the road. The first segment, from Cumberland to Wheeling, Virginia, was completed in 1818, connecting rivers on the east and west sides of the Appalachian watershed. Almost immediately, passenger and commercial traffic in great numbers began crossing the Alleghenies.

The new National Road was distinguished both by the technical quality of its construction and by the fact that it was funded and built by the federal government. Despite its constitutional government, the United States in the early nineteenth century still bore a closer resemblance to a loose confederation than a truly united nation. The often deep divisions between the Northeast, the South, and the West precluded any consensus on the most appropriate strategy to further internal improvements. This, and strict Constitutional interpretations of the federal government's ability to make such expenditures, combined to make the National Road the only federally-funded and constructed transportation project before the Civil War. Part of the Road's significance is not that it established a precedent, but rather that it was an aberration.

Once built, however, the National Road brought undeniable economic benefits to the areas through which it passed. Construction crews for the roadbed alone often numbered a thousand

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men. Great numbers of stone masons and other skilled craftsmen and laborers also were employed in the construction of bridges, and culverts. The Road is remarkable for the scope and sophistication of its infrastructure, which included the largest single-stone arch bridge and the first cast-iron bridge in America. As most of the mileage of the first leg of the National Road resided in Pennsylvania, its construction represented essentially a large federal subsidy to the region's economic development.

Due to its important role as a gateway to the Ohio River and the west, southwestern Pennsylvania, including Fayette County, had enjoyed steady growth throughout the last decades of the eighteenth century and then into the nineteenth century. By 1800, southwestern Pennsylvania had 100,000 inhabitants, and a number of towns and communities sprang up to house the growing number of residents. Fayette County boasted nine towns before the turn of the century. Among the growing Fayette communities were Brownsville, which occupied the site of the Redstone Old Fort, the stronghouse of the Ohio Company, and Uniontown, which became the county seat. Both Uniontown and Brownsville prospered from the trade and travel on the National Road, Brownsville particularly so as it was also a port on the Monongahela River.

A portion of the National followed the Braddock Road, the which had continued to serve as one of the few routes to Pittsburgh and the Ohio River. Scattered inns and taverns were established to serve the travellers who braved the miserable and still dangerous journey over the Alleghenies. A few of these, like the Inks Tavern and the Rue England Tavern, operated very close to George Washington's former property at the Great Meadows. The Road returned the lands around Fort Necessity to the mainstream of American history. After George Washington's death in 1799, the land remained part of his estate for another eight years, when Andrew Parks of Baltimore purchased the property. It then passed through the hands of a number of owners until 1824, when Nathaniel Ewing of Uniontown acquired it. Ewing was a prominent lawyer and entrepreneur who, like Washington, recognized the location's potential as a tavern stand. Within a few years, Ewing financed and built a structure on a parcel fronting the National Road. Apparently, this venture

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was only one of several speculative efforts that Ewing undertook in Fayette County in the 1820s and 1830s. This ~~structure~~ ^{building} near the Great Meadows became known as the Mount Washington Tavern.

The lands surrounding what had been Fort Necessity rapidly developed in much the manner that George Washington had foreseen. Ewing leased the newly-constructed tavern to Samuel Frazee. The building then passed into the hands of James Sampey, who operated the Mount Washington tavern during the heyday of the National Road. Sampey may have leased the property as early as 1830, but he certainly had taken control by 1833. Under Sampey's tenancy and later ownership Mount Washington flourished as an important inn on the most important overland route of antebellum America.

The Road itself provided a common meeting ground for peoples of different social strata, but the inns and taverns along the Road generally developed as at least variations of four distinct types; the drover's inn or tavern; tavern, or wagon stand; stage stop; and the inn or tavern. Stage stops or inns catered to more affluent personages of higher social status, while wagon inns or taverns accommodated common folk of more modest means, including cattle drovers and teamsters.

Life within the inns reflected some degree of social levelling. Accommodations were so modest at even some of the best establishments that strangers often shared beds. Dining in all but a few taverns more closely resembled a shark feeding frenzy, with customers from a variety of backgrounds engaging in a free-for-all. European travellers often expressed shock and amazement over the natives' energetic table customs. One observer recorded that "one must get to the table at the first stroke of the bell. At that signal a legion of boarders rushes the door. It will be hard for you to imagine the voracity with which people who are, after all, decent and well-dressed, can throw themselves on the food. In spite of its volume, it has soon disappeared. Americans think it an honor to be the first to leave the table."¹⁷

¹⁷ Edouard de Montule, Travels in America. quoted in Katherine Spitulnik, "The Inn Crowd: The American Inn, 1730-1830." p. 37.

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The Mount Washington Tavern served as a stage stop, linked through some arrangement with the Good Intent Stagecoach Line.¹⁸ Although the tavern appears only briefly in the most comprehensive history of the National Road,¹⁹ this lone account indicates that the tavern was a prosperous and apparently well-regarded establishment. The author notes that "The first year after Mr. Sampey's death the management of the tavern and farm was placed in charge of Robert Hogsett, who turned over to the representative of the estate the sum of four thousand dollars, as the profits of one year...as showing the extent of the business of the house, Mr. Hogsett mentions that on one morning seventy-two stage passengers took breakfast there."²⁰

Virtually no evidence exists to shed light on daily life at Mount Washington or the operations of the tavern. The tavern building is the only structure on the site that remains from the National Road period, but it is known that a number of other buildings once occupied the site. The exact number and function of those buildings is not clear, although it seems certain that fairly sizable stables adjoined the tavern. The stables were essential to servicing the coaches that stopped at Mount Washington. The tavern's structure and its setting combine to express a sense of status and permanence that surely reflect the site's historic character as a place of importance along the great artery between the settled east and the rapidly developing west.

¹⁸ The Good Intent Line operated canal boats on the Pennsylvania Mainline of Public Works and Packet Steamboat service on the Ohio River, as well. Thomas, The Evolution of Transportation in Western Pennsylvania, p. 67.

¹⁹ Searight, Thomas B. The Old Pike: A History of the National Road. With Incidents, Accidents, and Anecdotes Thereon. Uniontown, PA: Published by the Author, 1894.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 228-9.

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The country's quickly evolving transportation technology spelled the demise of the National Road. Within a few decades of their introduction to this country, steam-driven railroads completely displaced horse-power as the means of transporting passengers and freight over any significant distance on land. The Pennsylvania Railroad reached Pittsburgh in 1852 and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reached the Ohio River at Wheeling, Virginia, in 1853.

These two railroads now connected the eastern seaboard with the river systems west of the Alleghenies. The National Road, once the premier overland route to the trans-Appalachian west, quickly declined into a rutted country road used only for local traffic. The many establishments that had served its travellers withered, their structures either abandoned or converted to other uses.

The virtual abandonment of the National Road by interstate traffic dealt a heavy blow to Fayette County's economy. Brownsville retained some vitality, as a major river port and as one of the largest steamboat-building centers on the Monongahela River, second only to Pittsburgh.²¹ The county by necessity shifted its emphasis away from transportation and focused more on farming and mineral extraction. The county's enormous mineral reserves, particularly coal, would provide the springboard for Fayette's economic resurgence later in the century.

Mount Washington Tavern and its surrounding lands, including the Fort Necessity battlefield, once again fell out of the historical spotlight. In 1855, almost immediately after the Pennsylvania

²¹ In her study of Brownsville's historical and architectural significance, Norene Halvonik writes that "Although many of the other towns along the Monongahela River were important boat-building centers, Brownsville, because of its industrial workshops, was one of only two towns where a boat could be completely outfitted, Pittsburgh being the other." Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Its Historical Significance and Architectural Development. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record. National Park Service, 1988.

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and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads supplanted the National Road as the region's interstate artery, the property was sold to Godfrey Fazenbaker, who converted the tavern to a residence.

Fazenbaker conducted a diversified farming and stock-raising operation at the farm, and from time to time he still took in paying guests.²² But Mount Washington's days as a hostelry servicing a great national migration were over forever. The Fazenbaker family held the Mount Washington property for generations. The land that once witnessed events that shaped the course of world history now served as a pasture for grazing stock.

FORT NECESSITY AND THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The first program created to assist in revitalizing the economy in the wake of the Great Depression was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The agency was established in March 1933 and is acknowledged to be one of the most successful of Roosevelt's New Deal programs.²³ Rather than a direct relief program of cash payments to recipients, the Corps operated as the only work relief program until the Works Progress Administration began in 1935. It was created to alleviate youth unemployment and to carry out environmental conservation work.²⁴ Forestry genuinely interested President Franklin Roosevelt, and he believed the U.S. was straggling behind other industrialized countries in establishing a national conservation program.

²² The Mount Washington Tavern. An Interpretive Handbook. Fort Necessity National Battlefield. 1988.

²³ Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., "The Civilian Conservation Corps in Pennsylvania: A Case Study of a New Deal Relief Agency in Operation," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, (January 1976):66.

²⁴ Lanier, Ann Thedford, "The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: Organizational Structure and Social Effects." M.A. thesis, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, (1983): 113.

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In addition, Roosevelt exhibited a genuine concern for the masses of unemployed young men who wandered through the country looking for work. The CCC proposed to send an "army" of young men into the forests to accomplish long-needed healing of over-exploited and abused natural resources.

The CCC operated as an effective work relief agency from the beginning. It was administered by four federal agencies. The Labor Department recruited enrollees and the War Department (Army) housed, clothed, fed the enrollees and ran the work camps. Supervisors and technical personnel within the Departments of Interior and Agriculture (from the National Park Service, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service) and various state agencies directed the actual project work. A fifth federal bureau, the Office of Education, played a large part in the overall Corps program, developing academic and vocational training programs for enrollees.²⁵

The Corps program developed so rapidly there was no time to establish standard operating procedures for each camp. Camps developed their own identity as they implemented projects distinctive to their area and solved problems on an ad hoc basis. Decentralization allowed the CCC to be sensitive to local issues and responsive to a communities needs.²⁶

During its lifespan, Corps projects focused on soil conservation and reforestation. From the time of the Corps' creation until it disbanded in 1942, CCC enrollees planted two billion trees²⁷ on land stripped of vegetation from clear cutting, fires or erosion. The Corps is responsible for over

²⁵ Hendrickson, 66-68; Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prepared by H.R. Kylie, G.H. Hieronymus and A.G. Hall. *CCC Forestry*. (Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937), 303.

²⁶ Lanier, 48 and 120.

²⁷ Leslie Alexander Lacy quoted in Lanier, 31.

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half the reforestation, both private and public, accomplished in the nation's history. Other work projects include digging canals and ditches, building over 30,000 wildlife shelters, stocking rivers and lakes with nearly a billion fish, restoring historic battlefields, and clearing beaches and campgrounds.²⁸

By 1940, in Pennsylvania alone, the CCC had planted 50 million trees, built approximately 3,000 miles of forest roads, 6,600 miles of forest trails, 100 small dams and maintained 17,200 miles of roadway and 2,170 miles of telephone lines. Other projects included disease control, erosion control and flood relief activities; fighting fires; improving public camp grounds; and building fire towers, fire cabins, bridges, and fish dams.²⁹ All of the camps west of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania originally were included in District No. 2 of the Third Corps. Organization of the District began in April 1933, and by the end of the first year, eighty camps were in operation.³⁰ The early Pennsylvania camps were among the first to begin operating in the nation. The CCC planned to establish most of the camps in Pennsylvania on state land and heavily involved the Department of Forests and Waters in their creation and operation.³¹ Fort Necessity is one example of this planning operation.

²⁸ Foner, Eric, and Garraty, John A., editors. *The Reader's Companion to American History*. Sponsored by the Society of American Historians. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991: 177.

²⁹ Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the University of Pennsylvania. Compiled by workers of the Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1940), 17; Jim McKay, "CCC reunion, New Deal plan remembered", *Herald-Standard*. (Uniontown, September 9, 1983), 4.

³⁰ Civilian Conservation Corps, *Official Annual*, (1936), 15.

³¹ Hendrickson, 70.

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Within a few months of President Roosevelt's inauguration, the National Park Service had begun to organize the CCC activities under its jurisdiction. "As soon as the emergency conservation program received presidential approval, 70 emergency conservation camps were established in national parks and monuments, including the military areas, and 105 on State park and allied lands..."³²

Experienced NPS personnel oversaw the work in the parks "to insure the careful preservation and interpretation of the (parks') historic values. The establishment of emergency conservation camps within these areas, particularly in the national parks, permitted the accomplishment of work that had been needed greatly for years, but which was impossible...under the ordinary appropriations available."³³

The National Park Service had greatly expanded its role in historic preservation immediately before the windfall of the CCC. The Park Service actively entered the field of historic preservation in 1932, an action that was timed to coincide with the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. The following year, President Franklin Roosevelt, by executive order, transferred almost 50 historical sites to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. "At one stroke of the President's pen, the number of areas in the national park system was almost doubled. Included were 11 national military parks, 10 battlefield sites, 11 national cemeteries, and 10 national monuments."³⁴

In 1931, Congress enacted legislation designating two miles around the fort site as Fort Necessity National Battlefield Site. Gettysburg National Battlefield administered the site under jurisdiction of the War Department. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owned three hundred thirteen acres

³² Horace Albright, National Park Service Director. Annual Report, June, 1933. Quoted in Unrau and Willis, p. 81.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Everhart, William C. *The National Park Service*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1972: 30.

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of the Great Meadows around the fort and designated the area Fort Necessity Park. Dedication of the reconstructed fort occurred on July 4, 1932 in commemoration of the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.³⁵

Archeological excavations were undertaken in November, 1931, to determine the size and configuration of the original stockade. The fort's shape and dimensions had been a subject of ongoing debate since the first part of the nineteenth century.³⁶ This investigation erroneously interpreted the remains of the trenches as the outlines of the stockade.³⁷ Following this conclusion, the reconstructed stockade was, by comparison with the original fort, a grand structure, measuring approximately 95 feet on its shortest side and approximately 115 feet on its longest.

Judge Michael Musmanno, a powerful Pittsburgh democrat, strongly recommended the site as a CCC camp location. Judge Musmanno believed Fort Necessity to be historically significant as a battlefield and proposed that historical places in America should be glorified. As a result of this recommendation, Camp SP-12 at Fort Necessity, Farmington, Pennsylvania opened in June 1935 and operated until December 1937. The camp received the designation number SP-12 indicating its state park location.³⁸

Fort Necessity Camp was located east of the fort and the present-day visitor center at the current

³⁵ Melissa K. Friend quoted in Larry N. Sypolt, "Fort Necessity, Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp SP-12, 1935-1937." (Morgantown, WVa: Unpublished Manuscript, 1988), 10.

³⁶ J.C. Harrington. "New Light on Washington's Fort Necessity." A Report on the Archeological Explorations at Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Published by the Eastern Park and Monument Association. Richmond Virginia. 1957, p. 8.

³⁷ Ibid., p. 22.

³⁸ Ibid.

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construction site of park headquarters and maintenance offices.³⁹ The first camp of enrollees consisted of approximately 70 men from Uniontown who were sons of democratic supporters and picked by democratic party members.⁴⁰ (The Labor Department directed the selection process, but delegated the operation to state relief agencies who in turn delegated to local agencies. In Pennsylvania selecting agents were usually county and city relief boards.)⁴¹

Recruits destined for Fort Necessity rode by rail to Ohiopyle from the reconditioning camps. From the rail station, army trucks transported them to camp.⁴² Some of the first arrivals at Fort Necessity in Company 2326 must have been a little disheartened by the lack of conveniences. Like other camps across the country, the enrollees were issued surplus Army tents and cots until they constructed permanent quarters. They ate their meals in a mess tent and obtained water from a stream in the Great Meadow. To provide bathing facilities, they dammed the water further downstream and used canvas walls for privacy.⁴³

Work Projects

The first order of business for these men was to construct the camp roads and permanent camp facilities. The permanent camp contained several structures of standard design and measurement:

³⁹ Donna J. Seifert, of John Milner Associates, Inc., *Phase I Archeological Investigations at the Maintenance Complex/Park Headquarters, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Fayette County, Pennsylvania*. Prepared for the National Park Service, (Eastern Team-Falls Church Branch, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1992), 2.

⁴⁰ Sypolt, 11.

⁴¹ Hendrickson, 68.

⁴² Civilian Conservation Corps, *Official Annual*, (1936), 205.

⁴³ Sypolt, 13.

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seven barracks buildings, a mess hall, Army officers' and civilian supervisors' quarters, food storage building, blacksmith shop, pump house, and what was possibly a garage.⁴⁴

In addition to establishing the camp in 1935, work for the first company stationed at Fort Necessity focused primarily on reforestation. The land around the Great Meadows, once an imposing climax hardwood forest, had been virtually deforested, and the CCC set out to reforest the landscape. Other work projects for Company 2326 included clearing fire trails and underbrush and building roads.⁴⁵ In May 1936, Company 5462 arrived from Ft. McClellan, Alabama with 145 enrollees from southern Mississippi. Their primary mission was soil conservation and park improvement. This company of CCC members constructed a parking lot for park visitors, a trail from the parking lot to the fort, and several picnic sites throughout the park. They also cleared areas for visitor parking.⁴⁶ In two and one-half years at the camp, CCC members planted 60,000 trees, cut a firebreak around the perimeter of the park and built two and one-half miles of trails.⁴⁷

CCC projects often boosted the morale of the community, instilled pride and made life seem a little better for a while.⁴⁸

"Guests who have been invited to visit this Camp, at various times, have realized the importance attached to this Camp in the maintenance of the greatest historical shrine in

⁴⁴ Ibid, 14.

⁴⁵ Ibid, 16.

⁴⁶ *Southern Echo*, December 1936, quoted in Sypolt, 23.

⁴⁷ Walter J. Storey, Jr., "50th anniversary of CCC market in Fayette", *Herald-Standard*, (Uniontown: August 1, 1983), n.p.

⁴⁸ Lanier, 37.

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the United States, Fort Necessity. They are well aware of the fact that this company is improving a shrine that is the fountainhead of American Independence. These guests, representing true American Citizenship, are so interested in improving this territory, including General Braddock's Grave and Ensign Jumonville's Grave adjacent to Fort Necessity, that they have formed a committee to retain and broaden CCC activity in this area."⁴⁹

The camps became a part of the community's resources, flexible, responsive, able to mobilize quickly in times of community crises whether fighting fires, building flood levees, or searching for a lost child or downed aircraft.⁵⁰ The local emergency operations were as meaningful, or perhaps even more meaningful, to the community as road construction and building picnic areas. Because of the accomplishments of the Corps and its sensitivity to local needs, the American public generally viewed the Corps in a very favorable light compared to other New Deal relief agencies.⁵¹

Closing of the Camps

Enrollment in the CCC reached its peak and began declining in 1935. The Depression was easing and it was becoming difficult to find recruits to fill the camps. The unemployed had other more attractive options from which to choose with the establishment of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the National Youth Administration (NYA). Working in the WPA not only paid more money but allowed men to live at home.

Two other factors made the CCC less attractive. Negative rumors circulating about camp conditions had just enough truth to them to make prospective recruits hesitant to join. Because

⁴⁹ Civilian Conservation Corps, "Fort Necessity Pride of Civic Leaders", *Camp Necessity*, February 1936.

⁵⁰ Lanier, 50-51.

⁵¹ Ibid, 96.

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the camps were administered by the Army, the specter of the military was always present in the CCC. It became more prominent in latter years of the organization and deterred some potential recruits from enrolling.⁵²

The November 1937 edition of the Fort Necessity camp newspaper announced:

"On December 15th, 1937, the curtain will be rung down on the activities and life of Camp SP-12, located at Fort Necessity. Orders recently received closes all projects on December 15th. The CCC Co. 1329 will prepare to be moved between that date and December 20th, destination not designated at the time of this writing. The Technical Personnel will be disbanded. The educational instructors, except the Advisor, will return to other duties on their WPA program."⁵³ During the two and one-half years of its existence, approximately 850 men passed through the camp. Company 2326, the first company stationed at Fort Necessity consisted of 70 men from Uniontown. One-hundred forty-five men comprised Company 5462 from southern Mississippi and arrived in May 1936. Ninety-eight replacements arrived in October 1936 from Alabama. In 1937 Company 5462 transferred to Somerset and Company 1329 from Somerset arrived at Fort Necessity to become the last company stationed there. Upon the camp's closing, enrollees were reassigned to Somerset and other camps.⁵⁴

Closing the camp at Fort Necessity may have been accomplished without much advance notice as evidenced by the statement on the last page of *The Fort*, camp newspaper for Company 1329:

"Since this is the last issue of this paper, due to the discontinuation of this camp, we are publishing the covers of the next five months issues. We have had these covers ready in

⁵² Hendrickson, 83.

⁵³ Civilian Conservation Corps, *The Fort*, November 1937.

⁵⁴ Sypolt, 26.

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advance and being justly proud of them, we are taking this opportunity to show them to our public, small as it may be.

We also wish to express our regret in leaving this community, where we have been treated so royally and made so many friendly, lasting acquaintances."⁵⁵

By early 1942, there were only 14 camps remaining in Pennsylvania and eight of those were scheduled for closure. Nationwide, enrollment in the Corps continued declining due to the upswing of the economy and availability of jobs in the private sector. World War II hastened its demise. In July 1942, Congress voted down funding, and the CCC officially expired.

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⁵⁵ Ibid.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☒ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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Bibliography

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Fort Necessity National Battlefield

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 902.8

UTM References

Zone Easting Northing				Zone Easting Northing			
Main Unit							
1	17	619000	4406000	3	17	619800	4407340
2	17	619800	4406600	4	17	619660	4407340
5	17	619620	4407540	7	17	620140	4407400
6	17	620840	4407010	8	17	620860	4408300
9	17	621680	4407760	11	17	620780	4407380
10	17	621620	4407560	12	17	620800	4407340
13	17	620380	4407340	14	17	620400	4407600

Braddock's Grave

1	17	619580	4409940	3	17	620040	4410140
2	17	619820	4410220	4	17	610740	4409780

Jumonville Glen

1	17	615800	4415000	3	17	616200	4415140
2	17	615840	4415160	4	17	616200	4415220
5	17	616430	4415220	7	17	616200	4414860
6	17	616480	4414840	8	17	616200	4415000

Verbal Boundary Description See Maps.

Boundary Justification National Park Service designation.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Fort Necessity National Battlefield
Fayette County, Pennsylvania

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11. Form Prepared By

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